THE YEAR IS 1977, AND THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF YOMAKI HAS BEEN QUARANTINED. ONLY THE "HUNTERS" NAMED IN THE KING'S 8TH ORDER, REMAIN, AND KAZUNARI WAS FORCED INTO A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH SHUUHEI. NOW REUNITED WITH NATSUKO AND DETERMINED TO PROTECT HER, KAZUNARI KILLS HIS FELLOW VILLAGER, AND LEAVES TO SPEND HIS FINAL MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT WITH HIS LOVE. BUT AS HE STUMBLES HOME...

KING'S GAME
ORIGIN

TSST
SWIP
SHWOOM
SWISH
TCH!

WOBBLE
AW, JEEZ
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DODGE?
IF YOU HADN'T MOVED, I'D HAVE SLICED YOUR HEAD OFF CLEAN!
IT WOULD'VE ONLY HURT FOR A SECOND.
♥

CHAPTER 28

KING'S GAME ORIGIN

STORY BY NOBUAKI KANAZAWA ART BY J-TA YAMADA

IF YOU LEFT THERE ALONE...
...THEN SOMEHOW YOU MUST KILLED SHUUHEI-SAN.
SO YOU'RE FINALLY IN THE MOOD TO PARTY, HUH?
GRUNCH
INTRUDE
NO... NO!
I HAD NO INTENTION OF SURVIVING THIS!
...
IF THAT'S TRUE THEN LET ME KILL YOU.
OR WHY DIDN'T YOU LET SHUUHEI-SAN HAVE THE HONOR?
BECAUSE IF I LET EITHER OF YOU LIVE...
...YOU'D TRY TO KILL NATSUKO AGAIN.

NATSUKO...
SO THAT BITCH WAS STILL ALIVE!
GRIT
I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE WHEN THE LETTERS RESUMED...
WHERE IS SHE?!
GO TO HELL!

YOU IDIOT!
SHE'S THE ONE BEING CON-TROLLED BY THE VIRUS! SHE'S THE KING!
WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?!
IF WE'D JUST KILLED HER EARLIER THIS ORDER NEVER WOULD'VE COME!
SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE BEING CONTROLLED!
EVEN IF SHE HAD BEEN...
IT'S NOT HER FAULT!
THE VIRUS COULD'VE CONTROLLED ANY ONE OF US AT ANY TIME!
HMPH.
GAWD... YOU REALLY GET WORKED UP OVER HER, HUH?

WHATEVER, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LOOK FOR HER ANYWAY.
LET'S FINISH THIS.
WE BOTH NEED ONE MORE KILL, RIGHT?
DASH!!
SWISH!!
SWISH!!

BET YOU WISH YOU'D TAKEN...
SWING
SWING
...SHUU-HEI-SAN'S GUN.
SHING
LIKE I HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TO SHOOT A GUN...
TREMBLE
YOU'RE SUCH A SUCKER..
WHIZZ
KAZUNARI!
GRAB

WAVER
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WOULD YOU GIVE IT UP?
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME.
WHAT ...?
YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE STRONGER—
TREMBLE
CRACK

THUD
FLOP
GRGH
STUMBLE
SWING
THUNK

YOU WERE ALL TOO EAGER TO DIE.
YOU NEVER STOOD A CHANCE AGAINST...
...ME!
SHRRRRIP
NOT PHYSICAL STRENGTH. THE DESIRE TO LIVE
WHO-EVER WANTS TO SURVIVE MORE WILL WIN.
SHRRRRIP
CRACK
REACH
I'LL...
SHOW YOU...!

I CAN'T LOSE!
LEAN
I WON'T LOSE...
...
...
FOR NATSUKO'S SAKE. HUH...?

FINE.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY.
I'LL KILL HER, TOO.
YOU CAN BOTH DIE TOGETHER.
I...
I WON'T LET YOU LAY A FINGER ON HER...
WON'T YOU TWO BE HAPPIER THAT WAY, THOUGH?
SEE, I WOULDN'T.

I WANT TO LIVE.
SURE, IT'D BE NICE TO LIVE HAPPILY...
...BUT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS YOU'RE ALIVE.
YOU DIE, YOU GET NOTHING. YOU LOSE.
SLIP
スッ
AND IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU, WELL...
HEH... I CAN SEE MY REFLECTION IN YOUR EYES.
...
SHIVER
ブルッ
MAYBE KILLING THE GUY I LOVE WON'T BE SO BAD AFTER ALL.

ARE YOU STILL... HARPING ON THAT...
I LOVE YOU, KAZU-NARI.
GAAAH
SPLURCH
SPLURCH
IT'S TRUE. I REALLY DO LOVE YOU.
THE KING'S GAME HAD NEVER HAP-PENED, MAYBE...

I MAY HAVE LOST IN ROMANCE...
...BUT I WIN THE KING'S GAME.
KISS
IF I'M THE FINAL SURVIVOR, THE GAME HAS TO END.
THERE'LL BE NO ONE ELSE LEFT TO PLAY.
TREMBLE
!

WE'RE DONE HERE.
NGH...
MY LEFT SHOULDER IS SHOT...
GUESS... THIS IS IT...

RRR...
STILL HOLDING OUT?
SHAKE SHAKE
DIE ALREADY!
NOT GONNA LET YOU KILL ME!
IF I DIE, SO WILL NATSUKO!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
I'M...
SHOVE
DON'T GIVE IN!

DIE, DIE...
DIE!
NOT YET...
MY ONLY SHOT AT SAVING NATSUKO NOW...
...IS TO MAKE IT TO MIDNIGHT!
I'LL TAKE HER DOWN WITH ME!
IS NATSUKO THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?!
YES!

SAYO-NARA, KAZU NA—
DUMP YOUR CORPSES IN THE SAME HOLE!
GAAH!
THEN I'LL BURY YOU GUYS TOGETHER!
SQUEEZE
SPLURCH
SQUEEZE
SPLURCH
GLARE
SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE WORLD TO ME!

WHA...

PEEL

SPLAT

!?
PEEL
PEEL
WH-WHY...
I WAS SO CLOSE
TIME'S UP, HUH...?
BUT YOU'RE COMING WITH ME KAZUNARI...
DRIBBLE
GASP

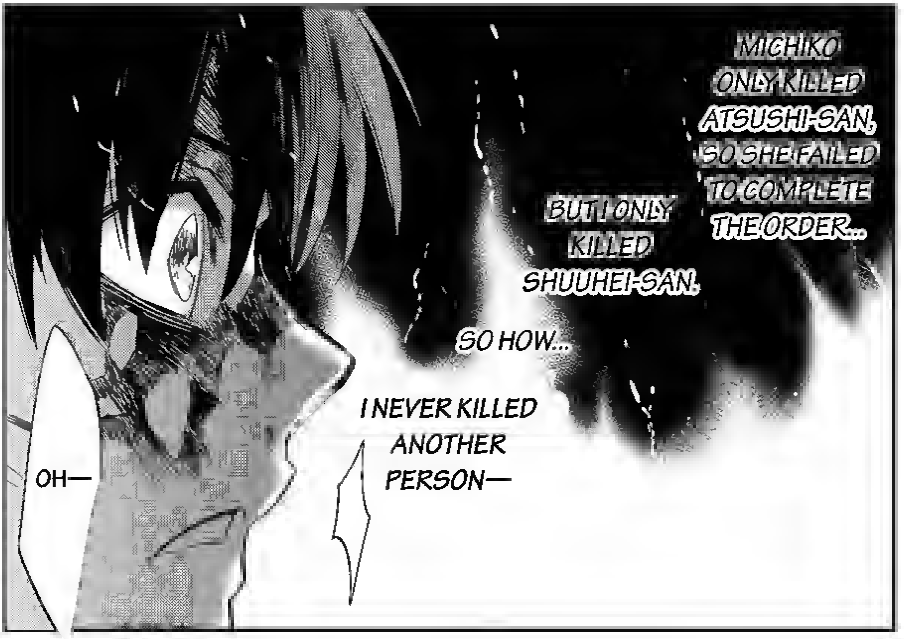
AAAAAAAAAA
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE...
MI—
MICHI-KO...
WHY...?
WHY...
ARE YOU SAFE ...?

RIP RIP
RIP
SPATTER
AAAA

KAZU...
WHY...
KA...
ZJU...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DROP
DROP
WHAAAY
RGH
NA
GAZHU
AAH-

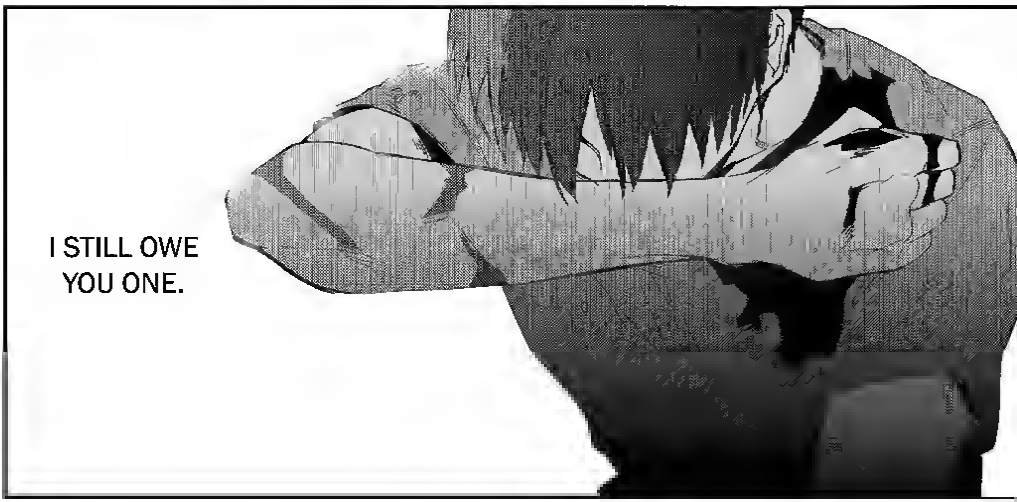
MICHI...
KO...
H-
HEY...
SLIDE
SO THIS IS WHAT BEING SKINNED MEANS...

THE LETTER ON THE BULLETIN BOARD ORDERED US TO KILL TWO VILLAGERS EACH.
WHY WASN'T I...
...PUNISHED TOO?

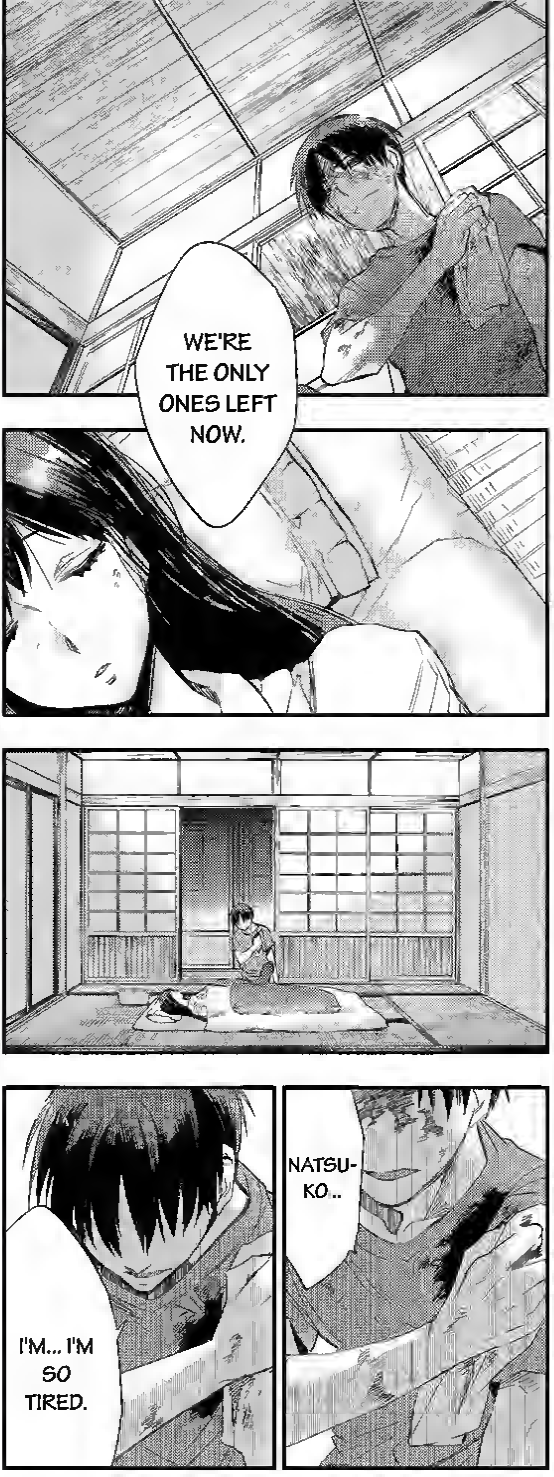

MICHIKO ONLY KILLED ATSUSHI-SAN, SO SHE FAILED TO COMPLETE THE ORDER...
BUT I ONLY KILLED SHUUHEI-SAN.
SO HOW...
I NEVER KILLED ANOTHER PERSON—
OH—

THE OTHER PERSON I KILLED...
...WAS HIM.
SHUUHEI-SAN SHOT HIM IN THE GUT, SO HE DIDN'T DIE IMMEDIATELY...
GHACK
YUUJI DIED WHILE I WAS CARRYING HIM AWAY...
YUUJI...
HE DIED BECAUSE I WAS CARRYING HIM...
BECAUSE I WAS DRAGGING HIM AROUND...

CARRY ME.


I STILL OWE
YOU ONE.

DID HE...
JACK-ASS...
HOW COULD YOU EVER THINK I'D BE GRATEFUL?!
DID HE KNOW HE WAS DYING?
YOU FOOL!



SUNDAY
AUGUST 21,
12:24 A.M.

FROM NOW ON, I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

THERE'RE A MILLION THINGS I SHOULD BE DOING.

I SHOULD CALL THE POLICE.

I SHOULD CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR ANOTHER LETTER.

BUT I DON'T CARE.

RIGHT NOW, ALL I WANT IS TO BE BY NATSUKO'S SIDE.

AND I NEVER, EVER WANT TO LEAVE.